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Reversal of good

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for June 8, 1980
Scripture references: II Kings 21:1 to 23:30; II Chronicles 33-35
Focal passages: II Kings 21:1-2; 22:1-2, 9-13
A PERIOD OF DESTRUCTION [II Kings 21:1-18]

One would almost assume that good political and religious leaders would pass their "goodness" on to the next generation of leaders. This, however, is not necessarily the case. In our lesson this week we will encounter a classic example of how King Hezekiah's reform movement was almost totally reversed by his son and heir to the throne.

Our children -- rightly and wrongly -- do not always choose to follow the parental footsteps. Some are even compelled to follow family tradition rather than having the freedom to choose for themselves. Hopefully our "young ones" will gleam the good from their traditions and call into question that which is negative and not so good, thus paving their own way in societal life.

Hezekiah's son was a crude and devilish sort of character with no ambitions except for those which lined his personal coffers! He soon became the "spittin' image" of his grandfather Ahaz, that is, he reverted back to gross idolatry and worship of pagan shrines.

Several prophets angrily spoke out against Manasseh's political and religious destruction. Their words of warning fell upon deaf ears and Manasseh soon felt the strong military arm of the Babylonian empire. In II Chronicles 33 we read where Manasseh was carried into exile as a prisoner.

Manasseh would prove to reverse his policies and follow the Lord like his father did. His eventual return to Jerusalem was marked by a period of religious reform. When he died he was succeeded by his son, Amnon. Again, in our biblical reading we will see where Amnon chose to pave his own destructive path rather than continue in the tradition of his father's years of reform.

A SHORT LIVED REIGN [II Kings 21:19-26; 22:1-2]

Choices can make or break us. Sometimes we choose the wrong path even when we know the right one to follow. What is it about us or in us that we do such a thing? Quite simply, it comes from the root cause of human sin, and it's been with us from the beginning of time.

Amnon's reign upon the throne was a short lived two years. He met a violent death as the result of a conspiracy upon his life. Thus he died pretty much in the same way that he lived. Fortunately, the successor to the throne was a son who "began to seek after the God of David his father." His name was Josiah, and his name is almost synonymous with religious reform in biblical history.

Josiah was the reformer. At an early age he began a broad sweep of the religious idolatry that his forefathers had instituted. Now that Assyria was in a period of decline, Josiah could devote himself to the task of restoring the Temple. Once the foreign affairs were relieved, Josiah could concentrate upon the pressing domestic concerns.

The Bible and daily living

Josiah was not alone in his efforts of restoration and reform. He had the help of both the priests and the people. These surely welcomed the refreshing leadership that Josiah brought to the throne. The people gave offerings to help with the religious reform, which is a good example to follow. Together the people pooled their monies and their skills to rebuild and restore the Temple to its rightful place. The scriptures tell us that the people were so inclined to the task that financial records were not required.

It was during the restoration that a great discovery was made. A sacred scroll was found someplace within the Temple. Speculation says that the scroll was that of Deuteronomy. Whatever it was, Josiah saw it as the words of Divine law, and ordered the nation and all its peoples to follow it. Josiah moved with the people in establishing a new covenant with the Lord.

What happened during the reign of Josiah is proof of the good that will come when a people and their leaders acknowledge God as the supreme commander.

(Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin.)

The pastor speaks

By REV. J. N. WILLIAMS

"Why behold thou the mote that is in your brother's eye?", but consider not the beam that is in your own eye.

The Master's question suggests what is usually true, that the person with the most faults is the most disposed to find fault. His right to find fault has about as much ground to stand on as the little boy who reproved his sister for looking around while they had their prayer period in their home.

With the beam in his own eye we cannot see how to remove the splinters out of the eye of our fellowman. There are several kinds of beams. One which is quite common among people is envy and prejudice. I read about a certain lady who excelled in making wax flowers and fruits. She was criticized very harshly by her neighbors and friends.

One day she showed these critics an apple and they immediately began to be critical of the color and the shape and everything about it. After they had ridiculed the apple severly, she cut it up and ate it.

Choral Ensemble slated

The Central Virginia Choral Ensemble of Lynchburg will be in concert at the Promiseland Baptist Church Sunday at 3:00 p.m., sponsored by the Usher Board of the church.

Rev. Albert Davis of Prince Edward County delivered a very inspiring message Sunday morning at Galilee Baptist. Beautiful music was rendered by the choir. Service was enjoyed by all. The weight rally of the church was a great success. We would like to thank the captains, Mrs. Dorothy Pannell and Miss Georgia Hamlett.

The special program given by the Usher Board of the Galilee Baptist Church was enjoyed by all. Miss Betty Bennet of N. C. was special guest.

Mr. Charlie Tanner of Spout Spring, Va. is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital. His children, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tanner and children of Baltimtore, Md., Mr. Mc Kinley Tanner of Alexandria, Va. and Mr. Daniel Tanner of Richmond, Va. are home visiting with him.

Out of town guest visiting Rev. Lawing this weekend were: Ms. Susie Sykes of Washington, D.C., Mr. Nathaniel Poteat, son-in-law, of Baltimore, Maryland. His siters, Mrs. Margaret Collier of Blackstone, Va., Mrs. Virgie Jones of Petersburg, Va., nephews, Mr. Luther Jones and Mr. Richard Berry and son, Mark of Petersburg, Va.

Mrs. Juanita Schrock has returned home to Arizona after visiting with her father and mother.

Mrs. Jacquline Poteat and daughter, Natalie are home from Baltimore, Maryland visiting her parents.

May we continue to pray for the sick.

DURING THE MAY MEETING of the Appomattox Primary School PTA, Mr. Lloyd Walton, Superintendent of Appomattox County Schools, installed officers. Pictured above (left to right) are: Mrs. Jill Scott, secretary; Mrs. Lois McCoy, reporter; Mr. Carl Patton, vice-president; Mr. Marvin House, treasurer; Mrs. Pat Torrence, principal; and Mrs. Debbie Powell, president. Newly elected officers attended the executive committee meeting prior to the regular PTA meeting. Plans were made for representation by the PTA to be included at the State PTA conference held in Blacksburg during the summer.

Delegates selected

Nine local Republicans have been chosen to represent Appomattox at the state convention this weekend.

Robert W. Carter, R. Clayton Martin, William S. Slagle, Ronald Steinkamp, Kenneth L. and Janice Marston, Tylon Bollinger, Mary Anne Lewis and Ralph Hamlett will all attend the convention, to be held Friday and Saturday in Richmond.

In addition, alternate delegates have been elected for Appomattox. They are Mrs. Betsy H. Carter, Mrs. Tylon Bollinger, Mrs. Brenda W. Drinkard, Miss Sheila Franklin, Mrs. Alice C. Martin, Mrs. Betty Steinkamp, and Mrs. Sarah Slagle.

The delegates will attend casuses and elect a committeeperson at the convention.

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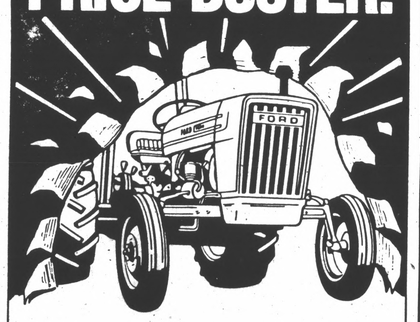

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Miss Shelby Jean Smith

Miss Smith to wed Mr. Atkins

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith announce the engagement of their daughter, Shelby Jean, to Timothy Wayne Atkins, son of Rev. and Mrs. Edward Atkins of Covington, Va.

Miss Smith will be a 1980 graduate of Appomattox County High School.

Mr. Atkins is a 1979 graduate of Alleghany County High School.

Mr. Atkins is presently employed at Farmville Motor Company.

The wedding will take place on June 28, at 2:00 p.m. at Elon Baptist Church, Pamplin, Va. Although no invitations will be sent, all friends and relatives are invited to attend.

THE REV. AND MRS. H. C. CRABTREE of Freedom Baptist Church were honored with a surprise Silver Anniversary Party on May 25. The reception was given in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dance McCraw, by the ladies of the church. Many friends attended along with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Crabtree, their son, and Miss Kimberly Crabtree, their daughter, all of Concord. Michael of Florida was unable to attend.

Parties honor Miss Franklin, Mr. Webb

Mr. and Mrs. David M. Trent honored Miss Sheila Franklin and Mr. Douglas Webb with a dinner party on Saturday evening, May 24, in the Trent home. Guests attending included the parents of the bride and groom and friends of the honored couple.

On Sunday, May 25, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Grinels entertained Miss Franklin and Mr. Webb in their home with a brunch.

The wedding of Miss Franklin and Mr. Webb will be an event of June 14 at Rocks Baptist Church in Pamplin.

Mrs. Lloyd Walton entertained in her home with a coffee for Miss Franklin on Saturday morning, May 24.

Hostesses assisting Mrs. Walton were Mrs. Mae Holt, Mrs. Etta Inge, Mrs. Lois Foxwell, Mrs. Brenda Goin and Mrs. Brenda Sauls. Guest included the mothers of the bride and groom and friends of the honoree.

Mrs. Thomas Kent Rensing

Miss Dickman is wed to Mr. Rensing

Anita Bea Dickman became the bride of Thomas Kent Rensing on May 24, 1980 at the Bella Visat Methodist Church, Bella Vista, Arkansas. Rev. Max Whitfield performed the double-ring ceremony.

Music for the ceremony was provided by "Mrs. Harold Sandbee at the organ. Lori Tripleth accompanied by Kathy Kilgore at the piano sang "Evergreen".

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Dickman of Bella Vista, Arkansas. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rensing of Vilonia, Arkansas.

Escorted by her father, the bride was attired in a gown of white taffeta with an overlay of chiffon. The dress featured an empire style waist line and a Queen Ann neckline. The bodice was covered with silk venetian lace and seed pearls. Her chapel-length train fell from the yoke in the back and was edged in silk venetian lace. Her veil was chapel length with three shorter shoulder lengths attached to a band of silk venetian lace and seed pearls. The bride's bouquet was a cascade of white silk rosebuds, carnations, lily of the valley with ivy and baby's breath.

Cheryl Dickman, the bride's twin sister was her maid of honor. She wore a halter-style gown with empire waistline. The chiffon over skirt and matching

[Continued on page 7]

Miss Margaret Withers (Peggy) Mathews

Miss Mathews to wed Mr. Graham

Dr. and Mrs. John Addison Mathews of Appomattox announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Withers (Peggy), to Mr. Franklin William Graham, II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Franklin Graham of Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Peggy will be a fall graduate of Clemson University.

A July 26 wedding is being planned.

Childresses announce birth

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Childress III announce the birth of a daughter, Tanya Renee, who was born Saturday, May 24, at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg.

Tanya, her parents' first child, weighed seven pounds, two ounces at birth.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John W. Childress, Jr., of Gladstone.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard Bunley of Wingina.

Historical society plans meeting

The Appomattox County Historical Society will meet June 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Virginia Coop. Extension Office on Court Street, next to the Post Office.

Mr. Harold Howard of Lynchburg, Va., who will be in the living history program this summer at the Appomattox National Park Service, will be the speaker for the evening.

Everyone is invited to attend.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leveque and family of Richmond were weekend guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Garrett.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Kruer of Arlington were weekend guests of her mother, Mrs. Irvin C. Moses.

Their children and their families -- Mr. and Mrs. Bobby C. Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leveque, Mr. and Mrs. Todd Craft and G. Garrett--surprised their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Garrett with a cookout at their home Saturday evening on their fortieth wedding anniversary. They served a bountiful dinner with homemade ice cream. George and Florence Kruer and Irwin C. Moses were guests.

Frank and Gloria Leveque also celebrated their 12th anniversary over the weekend.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Gayle B. Spivey, Michael, and Andera of Lewisburg, Tenn. will arrive June 5 to spend a week with Mrs. Spivey's mother, Mrs. Amma Lee Godsey.

* * *

Miss Nadine Bugg, Mrs. Paul Bugg, Mrs. Edith Scruggs and Miss Lina Trent spent Saturday in Roanoke shopping for the Miss Virginia pageant in which Miss Bugg will be a contestant.

* * *

Mrs. S. B. Robertson is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. George Totty of Wilson, N.C., Mrs. Fern Dooley and Mrs. Margaret Garner, Mrs. Eva Hayden, all of Richmond visited their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman, and aunt, Mrs. Janie Chernault of Route 3, Appomattox on Thursday morning.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. George Totty of Wilson, N. C., Mrs. Fern Dooley, and Mrs. Margaret Garner, Mrs. Eva Hayden all of Richmond visited Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson on Thursday afternoon.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Evans of Hyattsville, Maryland spent several days last week with his mother, Mrs. S. J. Evans.

* * *

Miss Susan Page Bingham of Raleigh, N. C. spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd W. Bingham.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Almond and Dana of Madison Heights were Wednesday night dinner guest of Mrs. S. J. Evans.

* * *

Mrs. Fred Robertson is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital where she is receiving treatment.

* * *

Mr. Francis Tyler is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital where he is receiving treatment for injuries sustained in a lawn mower accident.

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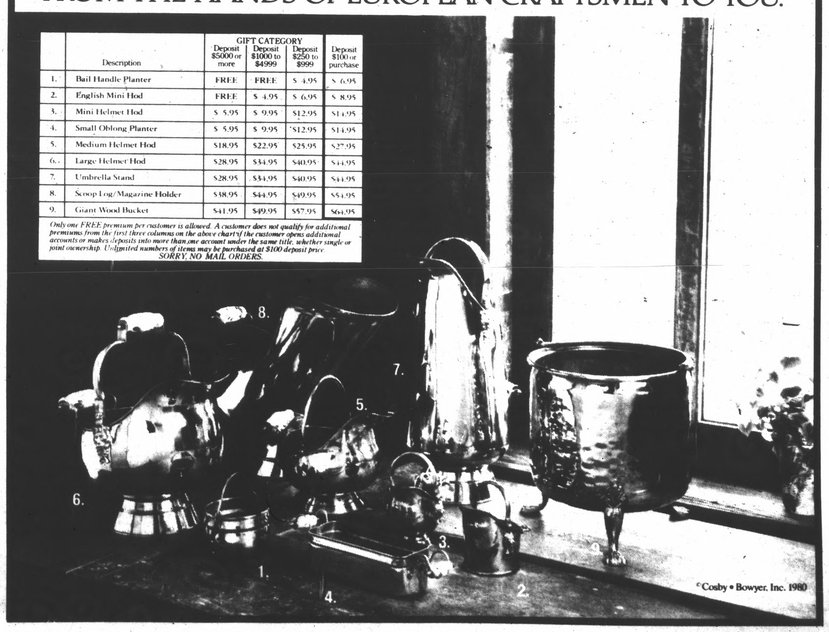

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